

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 14, 1955

TO HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

You will recall that in the President's letter of October 11, 1954 he expressed his concern with the problem of injuries to Federal workers. He also stated that he had approved the Federal Safety Council's recommendation of an annual Presidential Safety citation to the agency or department which makes the greatest progress in accident prevention. ER-6-45

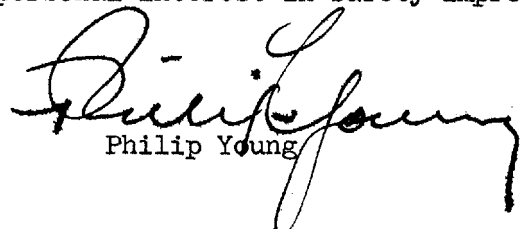
The Federal Safety Council has prepared "Standards for Annual Selection of Recipient of The President's Safety Award" and they are being transmitted to the heads of all agencies this week. One criterion which I think is particularly important calls for:

"Evidence of support of a comprehensive safety program as shown by documents signed by Executive heads and principal deputies of the departments or agencies. This evidence must indicate the executive head supports, encourages, and insists on the establishment and continuance of a comprehensive safety program . . ."

A safety-accident prevention program must have top level support to be effective. The President has stated that the suffering and waste of both human and financial resources caused by accidents in the Federal Service constitute an urgent challenge. Recent reports and analyses of the accident experience of Federal workers indicate some gradual improvement, but it would appear from the injury frequency rates and costs of accidents in many departments and agencies that there remains considerable room for improvement.

The more than \$26,000,000 paid out in compensation for injuries to our personnel last year can be reduced by concerted action. I am certain that the loss of life, the suffering, and the loss of productivity resulting from accidents can also be greatly reduced by strengthening our safety programs.

To provide the necessary top level support within your agency, I urge each of you to make an active effort to improve your agency's safety program and to make this personal interest in safety improvement known to your employees.


Philip Young